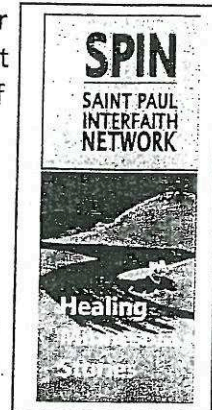


Native Americans in Capitol Art: An Opportunity for Change

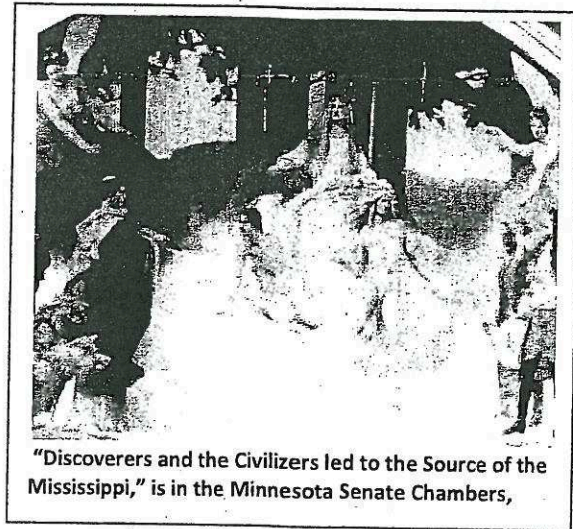
Minnesota's State Capitol artwork tells a narrow and incomplete version of our history and has offensive images of Native Americans. Further, the art does not reflect our state's current diverse population. This should not come as much of a surprise, since much of the art dates from the early 1900s when the Capitol was built.

However, we now face a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity for change. A major capitol renovation is underway. The Capitol Preservation Commission has created an Art Subcommittee to gather broad public comment on what stories the art should tell about Minnesota, its history, and its people. This is an opportunity to make your voice heard!



What Are We Asking?

- **Greater awareness** of the Capitol art and the hidden and often painful messages it contains. The Senate painting at right, for instance, has powerful symbols of Manifest Destiny and forced conversions of Native Americans.
- **Greater participation** in the discussion about possible solutions, particularly voices from Native American communities and other underrepresented groups. This includes active outreach by the Subcommittee.
- **Greater diversity** in the art. Though critically important, this issue is not just about the negative images of Native Americans in the Capitol art. More broadly, the Capitol art needs to reflect the state's wonderfully diverse population, reflecting that we all have a place at the Capitol.
- **A broad range of solutions:** We are not advocating a particular solution, but want to be clear that the status quo is not acceptable. Options that should be considered include removing current art, providing better art interpretation, providing better training for docents, and adding new art. Authentic solutions will come from robust dialogue.



(More on back)

Here is what we know about the process so far:

Art Subcommittee Membership:

Contact information provided where available:

- The Hon. Paul Anderson, Minnesota Supreme Court (ret.) Co-Chair,
- Sen. David Senjem, Co-Chair, 651-296-3903, sen.david.senjem@senate.mn
- Rep. Diane Loeffler, Co-Chair, 651-296-4219, rep.diane.loeffler@house.mn
- Prof. Gwen Westerman, Minnesota State University, Mankato, 507-389-5508, gwen.westerman@mnsu.edu
- Anton Treuer, Executive Director, American Indian Resource Center, 218-755-2032, atreuer@bemidjistate.edu
- Dana Badgerow, President & CEO, Better Business Bureau, 651-699-1111 (general BBB number)
- Prof. William Green, Augsburg College, 612-330-1544, greenb@augsborg.edu
- Peter Hilger, University of Minnesota
- Ted Lentz, Ted Lentz & Assoc. and the Cass Gilbert Society, 651-222-8117, tlentz@minn.net
- Sen. Ann Rest, 651-296-2889
- Rep. Dean Urdahl, 651-296-4344, rep.dean.urdahl@house.mn
- Matthew Welch, Deputy Director, Minneapolis Institute of Arts, 612-870-3043 (administration number)

Follow the Process

Information on the Art Subcommittee's future meetings will be posted on the Minnesota **Legislative Calendar** and the **Minnesota State Capitol Preservation Commission** website under the "Communications" tab.

Healing Minnesota Stories also will track the Art Subcommittee's progress in its blog: <https://healingmnstories.wordpress.com/> Just click the "follow" icon to get updates. Healing Minnesota Stories is an initiative of the Saint Paul Interfaith Network (SPIN). It began in 2012 to create opportunities for understanding and healing between Native and non-Native peoples. We are available to make presentations and host dialogues about Capitol art. Questions? Please contact us through the website: <http://spinterfaith.org/healing-minnesota-stories.html>